Confidential Update on Coutts Border Situation 14:00 hrs February 9, 2022

New Information appears in red font
JSG intel appears in Italics

Current Status

The events below are what is known at the time of reporting, but the situation remains fluid.

Canada-US Border

Coutts

Media reports indicate that the RCMP will be moving to the enforcement stage in order to deal with protestors at the blockade in Coutts: https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/enforcement-to-remove-coutts-border-blockade-to-begin-wednesday-afternoon-rcmp-1.5774639

RCMP are prioritizing cattle trucks for southbound movement through check points/protest sites to proceed on to Coutts/Sweetgrass.

Crossings at other ports are continuing smoothly with no reports of delay.

At 12:30 hrs, February 8, JSG communicated that Provincial Sheriffs have been deployed to Carway and Del Bonita ports of entry to prevent commercial vehicles from blocking access at those locations.

Airspace above Coutts remains restricted until February 9 23:30 (18:30 EST).

Milk River Blockade at Highway 4 and 501S/501N Intersections

- *As of 09:00 hrs, February 9, RCMP and Sheriff Highway Patrol report that:*
  - *A protest blockade was re-established at 20:00 hrs on February 8 following the Government of Alberta announcement, and backed up traffic at the police checkpoint at Highway 4/501 at Milk River.*
  - *RCMP were working to re-establish traffic flow (current status unconfirmed).*
  - *Cattle trucks were again blocked and were staged at Highway 4/501 at Milk River. These are prioritized for movement, and may be diverted through an alternate border crossing.*
- *At 9:00 hrs, on February 9, it was reported by Transportation staff in the field that some protestors at the RCMP/JSG checkpoint at the south entrance to Milk River (Highway 4 and 501N intersection) bypassed the checkpoint using the highway ditch. The number that bypassed is unknown (confirmed).*
  - *RCMP have initiated an investigation into the farm tractors that bypassed the checkpoint.*
- *A RCMP/JSG checkpoints remain set up at the southern entrance to the Town of Milk River, which is the Highway 4 and 501N intersection and at Highway 4 and 501S intersection (confirmed).*
- *RCMP requested speed limit reductions remain in force on Highway 4 at Milk River. Speeds have been changed to 80km/h then 50km/h as drivers approach the blockade.*
- *Airspace above Milk River, AB remains restricted (as it is above Coutts, AB) and is similarly in place until February 9, 2022 (confirmed).*

RCMP Request

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On February 8th RCMP had requested access to AT property to allow protestors to move to, if needed. Regional staff along with the Highway Maintenance Contractor mobilized to the site immediately and the work to upgrade the access to land, in order to accommodate this request, was completed at 21:00 hrs on February 8th.

The department has confirmed with the RCMP that their request for use of the department's gravel pit near Milk River is available as an impound yard, if needed.

CBSA and Reported Border Crossing Hours of Operation:

Notes:

- Port Directors (CBSA and USCBP) and RCMP maintain communications to assess the volume at the borders.
    - CBSA and USCBP continue to indicate they are prepared to adjust hours of operation at border crossings if needed. No changes to hours of operation at this time.

Border Crossing	Status	Normal Hours	Notes
Coutts AB /Sweetgrass MT	Open	Canada: 24 hours / 7 days a week US: 24 hours/ 7 days a week	Coutts is reporting one lane open both north and south. RCMP are prioritizing cattle trucks for movement southbound. Traffic is still impeded south of Milk River at Highway 4 and 501, which is about 20 km north of Coutts.
Carway AB/Piegan MT	Open	Canada: 8 am – 6 pm / 7 days a week US: 8 am – 6 pm / 7 days a week	Normal hours of operation.
Del Bonita AB/Del Bonita MT	Open	Canada: 9 am – 5 pm (Monday to Friday) US: 9 am – 5 pm (Monday to Friday	The department conveyed to CBSA concerns raised by Cattle Feeders Association. CBSA confirmed that the USCBP has stated that they will remain open until 22:00hrs local time tonight. The decision is based on their volumes moving south. CBSA will align with the hours. This will be assessed by USCBP and CBSA each day in order to react to blockades and volumes.

- Note: There are other land border crossings in the province (6 in total); however, only certain ports are making adjustments to accommodate the situation.
    - Some traffic may choose to divert to another crossing.

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- RCMP and CBSA are now advising Aden/Whitlash is an additional alternate crossing.
- Trucking companies should continue to check with the CBSA/USCBP on particular load requirements.
- The department has heard some transportation companies are rerouting to the Roosville/Grasmere B.C. port and we are working to confirm with CBSA the port's operating hours and capabilities.

US Customs for Agricultural Products (e.g. boxed meat) and livestock alternative routes for crossing:

- CBSA has confirmed that boxed meat can cross into the US at any port of entry in Idaho and Montana however, carriers will have to route to Sweetgrass for inspection.
- Regway, SK/Raymond, MT
  - Livestock can cross at Raymond if the carrier makes arrangements with the US Veterinarian (this is standard business protocols).
  - Boxed meat is being accepted at this location, however carriers will have to route to Sweetgrass for inspection.
  - Open 6 am – 10 pm, 7 days/week

Traffic Count Data

COUTTS – DAILY TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES (ON HIGHWAY 4, 3 KM NORTH OF COUTTS) NOTE: DUE TO LOCATION OF TRAFFIC COUNTER IN RELATION TO PROTESTS, THESE VOLUMES DO NOT REFLECT TRAFFIC CROSSING THE BORDER	Two-Way	Southbound	Northbound
Average Weekday Traffic in January 2022	1,510	820	690
Monday, January 31, 2022	Blockade	Blockade	Blockade
Tuesday, February 1, 2022	Blockade	Blockade	Blockade
Wednesday, February 2, 2022	Blockade	Blockade	Blockade
Thursday, February 3, 2022	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow
Friday, February 4, 2022	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow
Saturday, February 5, 2022	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow
Sunday, February 6, 2022	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow with RCMP escort	Some traffic flow
Monday, February 7, 2022	Traffic flow with RCMP escort	Traffic flow with RCMP escort	Traffic flow
Tuesday, February 8, 2022	Traffic flow with RCMP escort	Traffic flow with RCMP escort	Traffic flow

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DEL BONITA – DAILY TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES (ON HIGHWAY 62, 1 KM NORTH OF US BORDER)	Two-Way	Southbound	Northbound
Average Weekday Traffic in January 2022	50	25	25
Monday, January 31, 2022	300	170	130
Tuesday, February 1, 2022	350	200	150
Wednesday, February 2, 2022	400	250	150
Thursday, February 3, 2022	350	180	170
Friday, February 4, 2022	370	230	140
Saturday, February 5, 2022	Port Closed	Port Closed	Port Closed
Sunday, February 6, 2022	Port Closed	Port Closed	Port Closed
Monday, February 7, 2022	210	135	75
Tuesday, February 8, 2022	325	235	90

CARWAY – DAILY TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES (ON HIGHWAY 2, 2.3 KM NORTH OF US BORDER)	Two-Way	Southbound	Northbound
Average Weekday Traffic in January 2022	80	40	40
Monday, January 31, 2022	240	120	120
Tuesday, February 1, 2022	230	100	130
Wednesday, February 2, 2022	240	130	110
Thursday, February 3, 2022	260	140	120
Friday, February 4, 2022	250	140	110
Saturday, February 5, 2022	320	220	100
Sunday, February 6, 2022	275	160	115
Monday, February 7, 2022	265	140	125
Tuesday, February 8, 2022	185	110	75

City of Edmonton and Surrounding Provincial Highway Network Area

- *At 12:17, February 9, JSG communicated that a protest against the removal of the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) is planned for the evening of February 9.*
- *On February 8, JSG communicated convoys have been departing Acheson for Edmonton daily.*

City of Calgary and Surrounding Provincial Highway Network Area

- No known activity.

Classification: Protected A

Calls to Action on Social Media and Planned Protest Activity

As of 18:00 hrs, February 6, JSG forecasts that while, "opportunist pop-up slow-roll activities may occur throughout the province, such activities are likely to be small and short-lived."

Southern Region

February 9:

- At 2:03 hrs, February 9, Lethbridge media reported that demonstrators intended to stay put until *"all their"* demands were met including those under federal jurisdiction.
- *JSG continues to report that social media indicates a convoy planned to leave from Calgary on February 11 towards Milk River and Coutts, leaving at approximately 18:00 hrs.*
- *JSG communicated that Medicine Hat Police report registration has been set up seeking 1000 horseback protesters for weekend of February 12-13th by 'Walsh, AB Freedom Riders' group.*

Central Region

February 9:

No activity reported.

Peace Region

February 9:

The DM from NWT contacted Alberta Transportation DM indicating they have heard chatter over truckers' radios on the possibility of a protest blockade on the highway from Alberta into the NWT. At this point, these are rumours only and there is no indication on social or mainstream media that anyone is planning anything.

Should this occur it would have serious impacts to NWT as diverting to another crossing would add significant time and delay.

We have looped in our respective ADMs to remain connected and have flagged this to JSG who will raise with the RCMP.

North Central Region and Fort McMurray Region

February 9:

- *At 12:30 hrs, February 8, JSG communicated social media reports of a local support convoy being planned for February 12 in Fort McMurray. Intent to marshal at 11:00 hrs for 12:00 hrs departure. Posting includes request for pedestrians to pack the courthouse and provincial building.*
- *At 12:30 hrs, February 8, JSG communicated social media reports of a Fort McMurray Supply Convoy 2022 to Ottawa' intending to depart Fort McMurray for Ottawa on February 15. Tentative Route Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Saskatoon, onwards to Ottawa through Sudbury Ontario.*

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- *On February 7, JSG has reported some mention of another event next week that will depart Fort McMurray to conduct a "slow-roll" through Plamondon, Lac La Biche, Grassland, Athabasca, Red Water, Slave Lake, and Westlock (unconfirmed).*

Activity Reports from Across the Province:

Southern Region

February 9:

- See Milk River update on page 1.
- *At 9:00 hrs, February 9, JSG communicated that Sheriffs reported that single lanes in each direction at Coutts had re-opened by 8:00 hrs.*

February 8:

- *As of 20:00 hrs, February 8, through social media, protesters at the Coutts Border crossing blocked both lanes of Highway 4. It is unknown if these lanes are still closed.*

Central Region

February 9:

No activity reported.

North Central Region and Fort McMurray Region

February 9:

No activity reported.

Peace Region

February 9:

No activity reported.

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